

N^o 39

Ch. 124

38. South 8th

Cynancha trochialis

Edw. W. H. H.

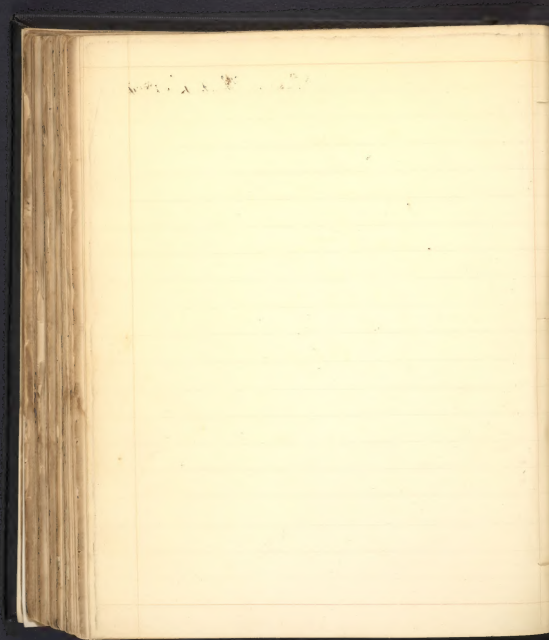
1811

John Smith
1811

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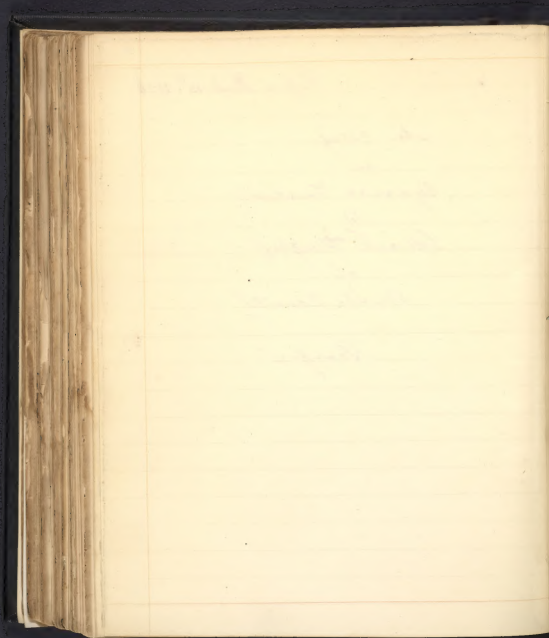
The 1st of May

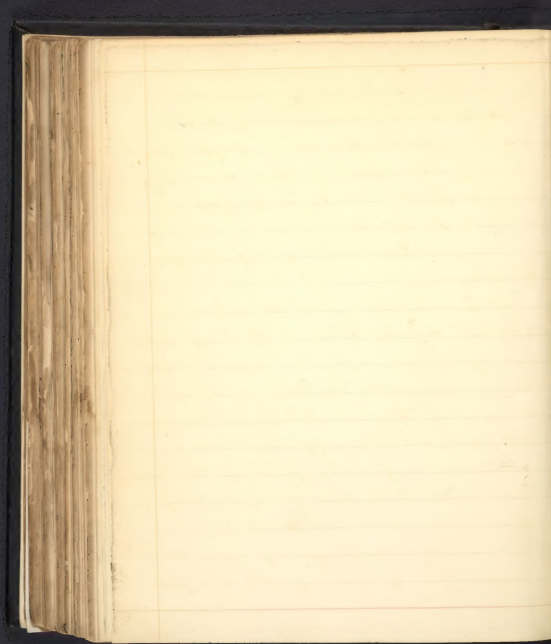
Dear Sir



Pasadena March 13th 1824

An Essay
on
Cynancha Franchet's
by
Edward Hughes
of
Barke County
Georgia





7

Cynanche Strachitis

A disease thus denominated by Cullen has been known by a variety of appellations, - as suffocati^o Stridula by Home, Strachitis by professor Frank and Angina polyssora by Michaelis. It is also known by a number of vulgar titles; such as Croup, Croup, Whooping &c.

It is said that about the middle of eighteenth century Stoddi, an Italian physician, published a regular account of this disease, and not until thirty years afterwards did Home or Michaelis take up this as a distinct affection, and one worthy of a peculiar plan of treatment; since that time many authors have made it a subject of investigation, among whose opinions relative to croup, there is not a little discrepan-

of both as regards its nature and treatment. For which Cullen informs us that it is of rare occurrence, we have the testimony of others in support of its frequency, and where we find greater contrariety of opinion, than in the course of treatment recommended by Hamilton, and that pursued by others of equal eminence.

Why this disease should have remained so long inoppression and as it were chained from its due action on the human race is not easily to be explained;—we know that as civilization and refinement advance, man deviates more widely from his original simplicity by which, disordered acting in his system are repressed, which actions, probably would have rife through time more developing



throwing to the scrutiny of his intellect,
 had he not by his superior powers at-
 tempted a melioration of his condition;
 then may we not suppose, that in the
 progress of time, his system constantly
 changing by gradual steps, has arrived
 at that point in the course of its
 altération, which renders him liable to
 the disease now under consideration.

Be this as it may, enough for as to
 know is that it exists, and when we
 observe with what avidity it seizes on
 those obnoxious to its influence, and the
 suddenness with which it wrests from
 existence the helpless objects of its at-
 tack, we are not disposed to give it
 a subordinate place in the catalogue
 of human maladies.

That this disease is ever contagious



is conceded by no one at this time,
but that it sometimes prevails as an
epidemic, and is endemic to some sec-
tions of country, cannot be denied. The
City of Baltimore and Washington, an
almost exempt^d from croup, while their
point near the former, and a neigh-
bouring village to the latter of these
places, are by its ravages mowed
with desolation. St. Caldwel speaking of
its epidemic character, says this appears
to have been the case in the neighbour-
hood of Alexandria in Virginia, in the
year 1747, the period at which General
Washington fell a victim to it, and
it was certainly the case in Philadel-
phia in the winter of 1804-5, when
the disease was productive of consid-
erable mortality. On the latter occasion



we know, says she, from observation, that the weather was pleasant for the season, yet for several weeks the crop provided with the characters of an epidemic, and we are informed on authority which we cannot question, that the same is true in relation to the former.

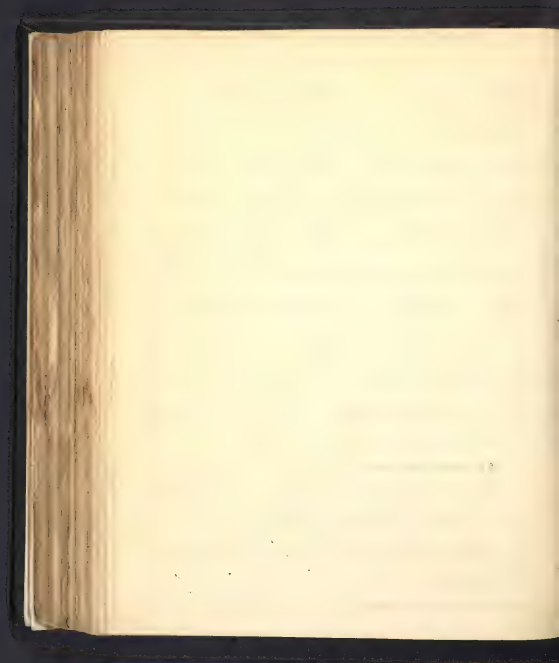
The cause of Croup is evidently the sudden change in the atmosphere from the warm and pleasant to a cold, which if accompanied by humidity seems particularly favorable to its production. Cold her acts on the surface of the body and thus makes a certain impression which is by remote sympathy transmitted to the Trachea and Larynx in a manner not clearly understood by myself: That the direct application of cold air to the Trachea, or in



respiration, is even sufficient of itself to
 give rise to cough, I cannot believe tolerable
 natural conditions, the air cannot be mas-
 sively diminished in temperature by the
 time it reaches the throat. It seems that the
 excess moisture of the lungs, it endues
 with a power to resist inspirations of a
 delicate, character from that agent, the
 action of which it is so constantly exposed.

The spring of the year, with its marshy
 for atmospheric vicissitudes, is usually at such
 the greater number of cases; but as there
 are sudden transitions in other seasons, it
 is not wholly restricted to this.

Cynanche Trachealis has been divided in
 to inflammatory and spasmodic; to the
 division I am inclined, as there are cases
 in which the patient immediately after the
 first paroxysm of the disease, is affected



with moderate exposure of the flaps, and
the adjacent parts. No severe inflammation
is present. It is in a few moments when
not recover has the removal agents, which
in others it is one or two days forming,
exhibiting manifestly an inflammatory
condition of the part concerned in
operation, and to all who have had much
to do with the disease it must be
known, that the disease requires longer
the action of our remedies, for its sub-
version, than that which comes on some
times and instantly.

Examination of those who have died
since camp, show the part in a variety
of situations; in some are fine marks
of a slight degree of inflammation, in
others thick matter; in others more
in some others, a membrane similar



to the entire success of the
the plan and policy, formed from the
conviction of the "people of the state," and not
in a few days, the party - perfect-
ly national, exhibiting not the least sign
of disunion. The above seems to be
the propriety of this action.
Some persons have objected to the
course, saying, that, the anti-slavery
movement will not sustain it, but those
who make the objection, cannot certainly
be moved that consideration and con-
sideration are our principal remedy for evils
of this kind, but why, it ask do
not make, a resolution to be made
before when opposition in this case?
So that may be answered, such action
would require a longer time for the develop-
ment of their action, than the value



of the symptoms will abate

For after labour is troubled with
cramp, it is confined, with but one
or two exertions, to early life, and
particularly to those between six months
and six or eight years of age. After
a child has once had it, we may
almost be sure of repeated attacks.

Symptoms.

A day or two preceding to an attack
the child becomes drowsy, fidgety and
uneasy, the eyes heavy and suffused, and
there is a cough which from its commencing
may have a peculiar shrill sound, re-
sembling that which is occasioned by
the "forcing of a piston into a tube
that fits it closely, or the crowing
of a cock." The cough gradually increases
in frequency and violence, and becom



more troublesome to the patient. The sputum at
any time is thickened - the respiration is
faint and whizzing, it may, though, be sput
up it has a prominent appearance, and
sometimes films resembling portions of a
membrane are discharged. The above symp-
toms increasing as the disease advances
in despite of our exertions to arrest them
the patient, in proportion to the violence
of the symptoms sooner or later is taken
off in all the agonies of suffocation.

This disease generally terminates in about
thirty hours, though sometimes in a much
shorter period, and in some cases it
runs on a day or two after all hopes
of recovery have been lost. The violence
of the symptoms subsiding, attended with
an expectoration from the trachea, has
kind a favorable termination, but when



the pulse is irregular and intermitting with
high fever, respiration difficult, frequent
fits of coughing without expectoration, the
resist is to be feared. "An eruption of
little red blotches, which frequently appear
and disappear in the course of this disease,
is always a favourable symptom."

Treatment

From the very nature of croup, the more
prompt and active measures should be
taken as early as possible to arrest it
in its commencement, or to mitigate its
severity or to render it entirely obviated
to the relief of subsequent remedies.
It is not a little surprising, to hear
an eminent author recommending expec-
torant salams. for the cure of croup,
and declaring in no one instance has he
lost a patient whom its administration



had procured the abatement of the life
and other mortal symptoms. That the sub
mar Hydran is an important article in
the treatment of this disease when its ad
ministration is preceded by emetics blood
letting &c. no one is disposed to doubt,
but even it is not so confidently in for
the cure of any such mortal case of
croup, I am persuaded that he who thus
temperated, would be constrained to wit
ness the effluvia of a suppuration in
fant, and realize in no small degree the
falls of tampering with disease. In the
treatment of Spanish tracheitis, whether
inflammatory or spasmodic, the same
remedies are to be employed, with a
little variation in the extent of their ap
plication.

Then called to a patient before any



of the violent symptoms have made their
appearance, when there is but a slight
difficulty of breathing, and when the
cough has not yet assumed that preva-
lency, which is on at the distinct
marks of cramp, or when this is beginning
to appear, emersion will, if actively
pursued in, be sufficient to avert the
attack, particularly if it be followed
by the application of a blister to the
throat. The actions of the remedy in
relieving this affection, are without diffi-
culty explained. - Bleeding by reducing in-
flammation, and blistering by relaxation
or contraction, will necessarily allay the
irritation already existing, and prevent
spasm which may be its consequence.
Notwithstanding I have derived cramp into inflam-
mation and spasmodic, and under the same



sion should be kept in view by the practitioner in the administration of remedies for this case, I am of the opinion that phlegm or the matter, more properly be preceded by inflammation of the parts concerned in this disease, and that there is phlegm on all cases of croup, though not proportionate to the degree of inflammation.

When Hoarseness, Stridulous C. has not been employed in its incipient stage, and the symptoms have become violent, such as hoarseness with some swelling and ringing sound in speaking and coughing at the same time there is a sense of pain about the larynx, difficulty of respiration with a whizzing sound in inspiration, dry cough, frequency of pulse, restlessness, the immediate use of other remedies becomes necessary, as the inflammation has so far



proposed as to have produced spasm
 of the glottis, or an evulsion of parts
 but matter in the trachea and larynx,
 which demands for its discharge the
 action of an emetic, the Tartar Emetic,
 being the most certain in its operation,
 should be employed until the end
 desired be effected, which is the pro-
 ducing of emesis. By these means we get
 rid of that, which if left in the tra-
 chea and larynx, would soon be the
 cause of suffocation, and consequently
 death.

In our first attempt to produce
 vomiting in this disease, we are often
 foiled, and have constantly to use re-
 markably large doses of any medicine
 we employ with this view, I think with
 the action above mentioned we will often



ever succeed in inducing the first remitting, then with any other of the same kind; and after this it may be tried with for the solid composition, or the h'm syng ap.

Bloodletting, both general and local, particularly the former, should be actively employed in the commencement, and continued so long as the symptoms requiring it may arise, though after much depletion in the incipient stage of scurf, the h'm syng if frequently given, will improve the necessity of the latter or Cures.

Black has been said of the Purgative Liniment when exhibited alone, and when the h'm syng is not at hand, this certainly is the next article to be resorted to. It will produce happy effects if administered



after inflammation has been subdued, but
as long as high action exists in the system
it is too stimulating to be productive
of benefit.

It is after the more violent symptoms
have been met by their proper remedies, that
calomel will be found useful, and then
should be given in large doses, at short
intervals.

The warm bath is an important remedy
in this disease, and is almost indispens-
able as it promotes the operation of emet-
ics, and determines to the surface; by which
the trachea and lungs are much relieved.

The operation of tracheotomy has been re-
commended, as a dernier resort, for the re-
lief of those labouring under severe at-
tacks of croup, with a view of extracting
an accumulated mucus, which has been



found in some cases after death. This operation cannot afford much relief; as it is only necessary when the membrane has extended to the bronchial ramifications; and then, it would be useless, because that portion of the membrane which causes the death of the patient cannot be acted on by any instrument that could be employed with safety.

Unfortunate for humanity, the physician is not always called, in this disease, until it has advanced to alarming violence, when the simultaneous actions of Emetics, Blisters, Bleeding and the warm Bath, are of no avail. But when he is present at its commencement, I must again recommend the free use of the Laxative, for I believe at this stage the disease is completely under the con-

trial of this instrument; on the contrary
 if this be neglected, and a crop safe
 find to pass unobstructed through its
 first stages, it gathers such strength
 from possession, in some cases, as after
 wards to defy all earthly attempts to
 rescue from impending death the sub-
 jects of its attack.

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